



**NEWS FROM SCDCA**  
**South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs**  
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**April 22, 2003**

**Release #03-004**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**SCDCA WARNS AGAINST UNCLAIMED PROPERTY SCAMS**

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs is receiving increasing numbers of calls from consumers concerning unclaimed funds calls and notices. While it is true that many people have legitimate claims to lost or unclaimed money and other intangible property, many unsolicited offers to locate and retrieve these funds are bogus.

Most of these so-called offers are a ploy to separate consumers from their personal information, or to solicit money for 'finders fees' or instruction booklets. Still other 'middlemen' offer their services – finding and retrieving your funds from the state – for a percentage of your money. A common scam is charging consumers \$25 for "special information" about how to locate their belongings. The \$25 gets the hapless consumer a pre-recorded message giving the address and telephone number of their state treasurer's office.

Unclaimed money from forgotten or inactive bank accounts, uncashed checks, and forgotten investments can be found and retrieved **for free** through your state's treasurer's office unclaimed property program. NAUPA, the National Association of Unclaimed Property Association ([www.naupa.org](http://www.naupa.org)), is a national organization comprised of the states' unclaimed property offices, helps reunite consumers with their lost or unclaimed items.

The South Carolina State Treasurer's Office website ([www.state.sc.us/treas](http://www.state.sc.us/treas)) has an unclaimed property page, on which consumers can search by owner name and print a claim form. On the page are links to information about reporting unclaimed property, the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, and a frequently asked questions list about unclaimed property. South Carolinians can also phone the State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Division at (803) 737.4771 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday- Friday, or write to: Unclaimed Property Program, State Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 11778, Columbia, SC 29211. Be sure to include your full name, any previous names, current and previous address(es) in South Carolina, and work and home telephone numbers.

Remember, in South Carolina, you can claim your property at any time, and **the state does not charge you to claim your money or items**. Before you sign any agreement with any middleman or company claiming to have access to something of yours, check with the Department of Consumer Affairs or Better Business Bureau to verify the legitimacy of the offer or claim.

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